

FEMA REGION II

INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS TEAM

Prepare Animals For Disasters

As you prepare for emergencies, make sure you have a plan for Fluffy, and Fido, too. If sudden emergencies or storms arise, evacuation or sheltering will be less stressful for you and your family, including your pets if you have a plan in place.

Visit <https://www.ready.gov/pets> for tips.

You may need to evacuate quickly, so having all the pet supplies you need and a safe place for your pets to ride out the storm will make them more comfortable. Do not leave your pet behind under any circumstances.

Record important information about your pet so you can easily access it during an emergency. Talking with your vet or friends who have pets can give you some ideas and advice on how to plan for these emergencies.

If you have a service animal, you can see ADA guidelines at <https://adata.org/service-animal-resource-hub/emergencies> that apply to emergency situations. You have a legal right to be evacuated or provided a shelter with your service animal regardless of size or breed. Always let an emergency responder know immediately that you have a service animal.

During a disaster a responder may not:

- Ask about a person's disability;
- Require medical documentation, a special identification card or training documentation for the dog;
- Ask the dog to demonstrate its ability to perform the work or task.

When it is not obvious what task is being performed by a service animal, only two questions may be asked – “Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability?” and “What work or task the dog has been trained to perform?”

To learn more about laws and policies regarding service animals you can watch a webinar at which provides an overview of federal law relating to assistance animals and emergency shelters, including guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and FEMA at <https://fema.connectsolutions.com/pz2vn7559hzq/>.

Here are some tips to keep your pet, or service animal safe:

- Make a Plan
- Check with your local shelter for pet and service animal policies and have your go-bag with pet care supplies ready.
- If you have a pet or service animal, be alert and plan for his or her needs. During an emergency, pets and service animals can become stressed.
- Know a safe place where you can take your pets before disasters and emergencies happen. Get the latest CDC guidelines on COVID-19 for sheltering with your pets at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/mass-animal-care.htm>
- Plan with neighbors, friends or relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so.
- Contact your local emergency management office, animal shelter or animal control office if you're unsure how to take care of your pet during an emergency.
- Have your pets microchipped in case they become lost.

Make Emergency Kits For Your Pet

Think first about the basics for survival, such as food and water. Have two kits - a larger one if you are sheltering in place and a lightweight, smaller version if you need to evacuate. Review your kits regularly to ensure that their contents – especially foods and medicines – are fresh.

Make sure to label everything with pet and owner name. These are some items you may want to include:

- Several days' supply of food in an airtight, water proof container.
- Water and bowl with several days' supply of water.
- Medicines your pet takes regularly.
- Collar with ID tag and a harness or leash.
- Crate or sturdy carrier for each pet.